

generating a query in a first language;

parsing said query into a plurality of terms;

translating said plurality of terms into a second language;

listing a plurality of permutations of said translated terms;

selecting a plurality of documents in the database;

generating a plurality of paragraph subdocuments from the selected plurality of documents in the database;

generating a plurality of overlapping subdocuments from the selected plurality of documents in the database;

generating a score for each of the paragraph subdocuments and overlapping subdocuments wherein said score relates a subdocument to a query of said database;

testing each of said permutations against each subdocument of said database to generate a score indicating the relevance of each of said permutations to each of said subdocuments;

and

retrieving documents from said database based on said score.

6. (Amended) An apparatus for retrieving documents from a database, comprising:

a computer coupled to a storage unit and to a display unit, said storage unit stores a database in at least one file;

said computer generates a query in a first language;

said computer parses said query into a plurality of terms;

said computer translates said plurality of terms into a plurality of second languages, each of said plurality of second languages corresponding to at least one language of the documents stored in said database;

said computer generates a listing of a plurality of permutations of said translated terms;